

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Watford XI 0

By STUART EARP

WYCOMBE Wanderers staged their last match before the Christmas holiday on Tuesday night when they overcame a Watford side sprinkled with first teamers 2-0 at Loakes Park.

Although the friendly was played at a fairly leisurely pace with both sides given time to play, it was the Blues who dominated much of the game and looked more dangerous throughout.

Particularly impressive for Wycombe was veteran Tony Horseman whose delightful touches kept the meagre crowd entertained. 'Bodger' scored a fine goal later, too. Dave Bullock also looked good in his first game for ages at centre back while Ian Pearson was a constant threat and grabbed his 20th goal of the season. It came after a clinical incision into the Watford defence in the sixth minute. Bob Davies' clearance found Howard Kettleborough who ran on well before looking up and sending over a pin-point cross. Pearson ran in and neatly steered the ball past Steve Sherwood, the former Chelsea goalkeeper.

Watford replied with some nice attacks, mainly instigated by manager Mike Keen, who keeps in trim by playing in reserve games. Mike, who lives locally, still has the ability to send some superb passes around the pitch.

Paul Birdseye curled a shot inches over the top while Peter Cruse and Howard Kennedy all tested Sherwood in the first half as Wanderers dictated.

Wycombe made five second half changes and brought in young West Indian Lance Cadogan, who had a promising 45 minutes. Dylan Evans also had a run out with his forearm in plaster.

Again Wanderers scored early on. The second goal came after 52 minutes when Kennedy drove a free kick low and hard to the near post. Horseman flicked out a leg and squeezed the ball between Sherwood and an upright.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle (sub J. Maskell 45 mins); P. Birdseye, K. Mead (sub A. Phillips 45 mins), D. Bullock, R. Davies (sub K. Mead 83 minutes); H. Kennedy, J. Priestley (sub G. Mackenzie 45 mins), P. Cruse (sub L. Cadogan 45 mins); A. Horseman, H. Kettleborough (sub D. Evans 45 mins), I. Pearson (sub P. Cruse 81 mins).

WATFORD: S. Sherwood; T. Howe, T. Walley, S. Read, D. Butler; G. Bristow, M. Keen, K. McCarthy; R. Poole, I. Williams, L. Blissett.

Referee: D. Hedges.

Half-time: 1-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Pearson (6), Horseman (53).

Attendance: 250.